

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims by canceling claims 10-23, all without prejudice, as indicated on the following listing of all the claims in the present application after this Amendment:

1. (Original) In a system including a host and a plurality of sockets in which electronic circuit cards are mechanically insertable and electrically connectable, a method of operating the system, comprising:

transferring data between the host and a card addressed over a command circuit when connected to all of the plurality of sockets through a data circuit also connected to all of the plurality of sockets, and

normally transferring commands that control operation of the electronic circuit cards from the host to an individual card over the command circuit when connected to all of the plurality of sockets except when unique addresses of the individual cards are being defined by communication between the host and the cards one at a time over the command circuit that is alternatively connected to one of the plurality of sockets at a time.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing within at least some of the electronic circuit cards a characteristic of a number of data contacts thereof through which data are transferrable in parallel,

causing the host to read the stored characteristic from each of the cards inserted into the plurality of sockets, and

wherein transferring data between the host and an addressed card includes transferring data over one or more of a plurality of data lines connecting the host with each of the plurality of

sockets according to the characteristic stored in the addressed card.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the host provides a clock signal to each of the plurality of sockets to operate electronic circuit cards inserted therein with a common clock frequency regardless of the number of lines over which data are simultaneously transferred with the individual cards that are inserted into the sockets.

4. (Original) The method of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the electronic circuit cards include re-writeable non-volatile memory in which the transferred data are stored.

5. (Original) In a system including a host and at least one socket in which at least one of a plurality of electronic circuit cards is removably insertable at one time to form an electrical connection with contacts of the card, a method of operating the system, comprising:

storing within the individual electronic circuit cards a characteristic of a number of data contacts thereof through which data are transferrable in parallel,

causing the host to read the stored characteristic from said at least one card inserted into said at least one socket, and

transferring data between the host and said at least one inserted card over one or more of a plurality of lines connecting the host with said at least one socket according to the characteristic stored in the individual one inserted card.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the host provides a clock signal to said at least one plurality of sockets to operate one inserted card with a common clock frequency regardless of the number of lines over which data are simultaneously transferred therewith.

7. (Original) The method of either one of claims 5 or 6, wherein the electronic circuit cards include re-writeable non-volatile memory in which the transferred data are stored.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the host determines whether said one inserted card is a MMC type, and, if so, transfers data over only one of the plurality of data lines to said at least one socket.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein transferring data between the host and said at least one inserted card includes directing individual bits of a serial data stream in sequence through a number of said data lines corresponding to the characteristic stored in said one inserted card.

10.-23. (Cancelled)